

visionary leadership the Guild of Saint Agnes has enjoyed these past 14 years. Notwithstanding the Guild's proud history, the organization has prospered and thrived like no other in the region under the skilled and expert stewardship of Ed Madaus. As Executive Director of the Guild, Ed has transformed the agency into the most widely-known and highly-regarded childcare provider in greater Worcester County. In addition to growing the annual operating budget of the Guild from \$1 million to \$9 million, Ed has led the organization through the rigorous process of having all of its childcare centers fully accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. He has also built successful partnerships with the Worcester Public Schools and other area school districts to provide after-school care for countless working families. Ed has long understood the intrinsic connection between early childhood education and child development, and was the primary proponent for seeking the highly-competitive 21st Century grant to better connect parents and children to their schools. Perhaps most impressive among Ed's numerous achievements at the Guild has been his steadfast refusal to ignore the pressing needs of the most vulnerable children in our midst. He has aggressively pursued childcare placements for children who might otherwise find themselves in foster care and thereby given stability and hope to an untold number of families struggling to remain intact.

Not satisfied to do right by just the Guild's clients, Ed has also instituted a number of employee benefit programs as Executive Director. At his insistence, the Guild established a 100 percent tuition assistance program to encourage staff members to further their education and training in early childhood development and teaching. Today, one-third of the Guild's employees are enrolled in college. The success of that program reflects Ed's own lifelong commitment to learning. A graduate of Holy Cross College, Ed holds both a master's degree in Education from Worcester State College and a second master's degree in Social Work from Boston College.

Madam Speaker, in my 10 years in Congress I have seldom encountered a more consummate professional and decent human being than Ed Madaus. In the tradition of Marian Wright Edelman, the founder of the Children's Defense Fund, Ed Madaus has time and again proven himself to be a fierce, unrelenting and committed advocate for children. Whether at the state's Department of Social Services or as Executive Director for the Guild of Saint Agnes, Ed has surpassed that test made famous by Wright Edelman when she said, "If we don't stand up for children, then we don't stand for much."

Madam Speaker, in closing, I humbly ask that today we in the U.S. House of Representatives stand up to publicly thank Edward Madaus for his lifetime of devoted service to our nation's children and, in particular, for his leadership at the Guild of Saint Agnes. He deserves our admiration, respect and gratitude for a career spent in the most noble cause of all.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 82ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE HALL MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF VALLEY, ALABAMA

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 22, 2007*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to The Hall Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church of Valley, Alabama, which is celebrating their 82nd Anniversary on May 27, 2007.

In 1866, the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church allowed African Americans to have their own congregations. Many years later, in 1925, Hall Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church was founded.

In 1941 Hall Memorial CME was rebuilt after a devastating fire, and in 1969, was remodeled. With dedicated pastors and a committed congregation, the church has grown and prospered over the years. The pastor there now is Rev. Pierre K. Primm.

I am pleased to recognize the members of The Hall Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church of Valley, Alabama, today for reaching this important milestone in the history of Valley, and congratulate the church family on their 82nd Anniversary.

### TRIBUTE TO REV. THOMAS CHARLES

### HON. BOBBY JINDAL

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 22, 2007*

Mr. JINDAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Reverend Thomas Charles French, Jr., for his 49-year service to the congregation of Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Reverend French, who retired this May, departs from a pastorate he has held since Jefferson Baptist's founding. In the five decades since; he has overseen its growth from a mere 17 members to nearly 1,500, has played an active role in the Southern Baptist Convention, has developed a television ministry program in collaboration with his church, and has ministered to four generations of some of the families at Jefferson Baptist.

Though officially he is retired, Reverend French will continue to serve the community on various governing boards in Louisiana. He also will act as Jefferson Baptist's pastor emeritus after a new pastor is found. I know that even in retirement, Reverend French will continue the good works that have made him so beloved to his community in Baton Rouge.

Madam Speaker, I ask that all my colleagues join me today in honoring my good friend Reverend Thomas French's life and works. His exceptional energy, service to the public good, and lifelong dedication to his church and his state are an example for all of us to follow. I am honored to call him a friend, and I wish him the best in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD SERGEANT RHYSW. KLASNO

### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 22, 2007*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, California National Guard Sergeant Rhys W. Klasno. Today I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

Rhys was born in Orange, California and attended Woodcrest Christian middle and high schools in Riverside, California. School officials and teachers remember Rhys fondly—he was a good student who was friendly with classmates and teachers.

Sergeant Klasno enlisted in the California National Guard in 2004 and was trained as an ammunition Sergeant before being reassigned in April 2006 as a heavy vehicle driver for the 1114th Transportation Company, according to the Riverside Press Enterprise. Members of Rhys's unit recall a young man who was ready to help others. After his enlistment in the National Guard, Rhys had planned to become a paramedic and to help save lives. Rhys deployed to Iraq in July 2006 and was killed Sunday, May 13, 2007, by a roadside bomb in Haditha, Iraq. Rhys received the National Defense Medal, the Army Service Ribbon and the Drill Attendance Ribbon. Today Sergeant Klasno was laid to rest at Riverside National Cemetery in California.

Rhys leaves behind his wife, Stephanie Ann Klasno and their soon-to-be-born daughter, London; his mother and father Michael and Lynn Klasno; and his grandparents Elisabeth Klasno of Temecula and Robert E. Jardinico of Arizona.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country, we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Rhys, who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. Today was probably the hardest day the Klasno family has ever faced and my thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice goes out to them. There are no words that can relieve their pain and what words I offer only begin to convey my deep respect and highest appreciation.

Sergeant Klasno's wife and family have all given a part of themselves today in the loss of their loved one and I hope they know that their husband, son and grandson, the goodness he brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made, will be remembered.

### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under